

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of October 22, 2002 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 6-11 are pending. Claim 6 has been amended to correct informalities. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claim 6 because of informalities. Claim 6 has been amended to correct any perceived informalities.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because of the drawing changes filed on August 1, 2002; because Figures 1-4 are not labeled Prior Art or Conventional Art; and because of element number 15 in Figures 5 and 7. Applicants respectfully traverse these objections.

As to the drawing changes and element number 15, Applicants re-submit the drawings changes with this response to the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn.

As to the label for Figures 1-4, Applicants submit drawing changes for Figures 1-4 to label them as "Conventional Art" as required by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 6-11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dingwall et al. (US Pat. NO. 5,307,188). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 6 is allowable at least for the reason that claim 6 recites a combination of elements including a lower substrate on a lower polarizer; a backlight device disposed opposite the lower polarizer for emitting light toward the lower polarizer; wherein the lower polarizer includes a light shielding film in a peripheral portion. None of the cited references teaches or suggests each and every feature of the claims.

In Dingwall et al., instead of using a gray surround between each of the light shutters as was done in Dir, an opaque surround (for example, a black mask) 235 is applied to the polarizer 237b of the primary display 234 around each of the light shutters of the primary display 234. The opaque mask 235 prevents any light from bleeding through the primary liquid crystal display 234 between each of the image elements. Column 8, lines 1-10 and 29-57. The lower polarizer does not include a light shielding film in a peripheral portion as recited by claim 6.

Further, Dingwall et al. may teach a lower substrate on a lower polarizer, however the light source 224 is not disposed opposite the lower polarizer, but is instead placed being the secondary display 232. Column 6, lines 51-68.

Moreover, claims 7-11 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 6, which is believed to be allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7371. All correspondence should be sent to the address listed below.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: January 22, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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30827

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) A liquid crystal display (LCD) device, comprising:

an upper polarizer on an upper substrate;

a lower substrate on a lower [substrate] polarizer;

a liquid crystal layer disposed between the upper substrate and the lower substrate; and

a backlight device disposed opposite the lower polarizer for emitting light toward the lower polarizer;

wherein the lower polarizer includes a light shielding film in a peripheral portion; and

wherein the light shielding film absorbs light.